

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 05895 091153Z

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SYE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /033 W

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O 091048Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7974

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5895

FOR A/SY/FO

REF: BELGRADE 5892

FOL SENT ACTION BELGRADE FM ZAGREB SEP 8:

QUOTE ZAGREB 754

FOR RSO LITTLE FROM KAISER

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS ASEC YO US

SUBJ: REPORT OF PLAN TO MURDER AMBASSADOR

REF: BELGRADE 5873

1. BELGRADE'S 5873 MADE NO REFERENCE TO OUR FOLLOWUP MESSAGE ZAGREB 750 WHICH ADDED TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ZAGREB 747. WHILE I TRIED TO CONVEY AS MUCH INFORMATION AS I COULD RECALL IN THE TWO MESSAGES WE SENT, I MAY BE ABLE TO ADD A LITTLE MORE IN RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS YOU POSED IN YOUR MESSAGE. THE FOLLOWING NUMBERED RESPONSES WILL CORRELATE TO YOUR NUMBERED QUESTIONS:

(2) THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 4 IN A MAJOR HOTEL IN GRAZ WHOSE NAME I DO NOT RECALL (THE DATE OF THE CONVERSATION WAS INADVERTENTLY OMMITED IN TRANSMITTING OUR ZAGREB 747).

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(3) THE FRIEND WAS BY IMPLICATION AN AUSTRIAN.

(4) HE INDICATED THAT HE AND HIS FRIEND HAD BEEN SPEAKING GERMAN AND THAT HE HAD OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION WHICH WAS IN SERBO-CROATIAN. HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER OR NOT HE AND HIS FRIEND HAD DISCUSSED WHAT HE HAD OVERHEARD.

(5) HE SEEMED FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THE THREE MEN WERE NOT AWARE THAT HE HAD OVERHEARD AND UNDERSTOOD THEM WHEN THEY WERE SPEAKING SERBO-CROATIAN.

(6) HE DID NOT SAY.

(7) SEE 5 ABOVE.

(8) HE DID NOT SAY.

(9) IN DESCRIBING THEM AS "NEOBICNI LJUDI" (WHICH I TRANSLATED TO "AS NOT ORDINARY" YUGOSLAVS), HE MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT WHAT HE MEANT WAS THAT THEY WERE NOT JUST AVERAGE YUGOSLAV CITIZENS. SEE PARAGRAPH ONE OF ZAGREB 747. I THOUGHT IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVED THEY WERE YUGOSLAV POLICE.

(10) SEE 9 ABOVE.

(11) HE HAD FIRST TELEPHONED THE CONSULATE THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND HAD ASKED TO SPEAK WITH THE CG. I WAS THEN AT A STAFF MEETING AND SUBSEQUENTLY TIED UP IN MEETINGS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF. HE WAS TOLD TO CALL BACK LATER. HE TOLD ME LATER THAT SAME EVENING THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PHONE BACK AS HE HAD TO TAKE AN EXAM LATER THAT SAME DAY. (WE KNOW FOR A FACT THAT ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR ZAGREB UNIVERSITY ARE BEING GIVEN THIS WEEK). HE AGAIN PHONED THE DUTY OFFICER JIM HALMO AT ABOUT 2000 TO ASK HOW HE COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ME. AT THAT TIME JIM WAS UNDERSTANDABLY GUARDED AND WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. FOR HIS PART, THE YUGOSLAV WAS UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO SPEAK FREELY ON THE TELEPHONE. BEFORE HIS DINAR RAN OUT FROM THE

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PUBLIC BOOTH HE WAS PHONING FROM, HE ASKED JIM WHETHER I WAS LISTED IN THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. JIM SAID HE DID NOT KNOW. AS BEST WE CAN JUDGE, WITHIN ABOUT 20 MINUTES OF THAT PHONE CALL, HE APPEARED AT OUR HOUSE.

(12) WHEN I FIRST MET HIM AT THE DOOR, HE SAID HE WANTED TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT "AN IMPORTANT MATTER." I ASKED HIM TO PLEASE CALL ON ME AT THE OFFICE THE NEXT

DAY. HE RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS "RATHER IMPORTANT AND CONCERNED MR. SILBERMAN." I THEN INVITED HIM TO PROCEED.

(13) HE TOLD THE MAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO SPEAK TO THE CONSUL GENERAL ABOUT AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

(14) HE WAS VERY NERVOUS AND PERSPIRED ALL THE TIME HE WAS WITH ME, BUT IT DID NOT SEEM TO ME THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO LEAVE THE HOUSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY FUTURE CONTACT--AND YET I MUST ADD THAT I WOULD NOT PRECLUDE IT. (THE LATTER COMMENT IS A VERY SUBJECTIVE FEELING ON MY PART).

(15) HE WAS RESPONSIVE.

(16) IN RELATING THE HISTORY OF HIS FAILURE TO HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB WHEN HE FIRST GRADUATED FROM GIMNAZIUM AND WHEN HE DESCRIBED HIS CURRENT ENROLLMENT AT THE LAW FACULTY AT ZAGREB, I THOUGHT I DETECTED A WHIFF OF ANTI-REGIME SENTIMENT. I CAN'T BE SURE.

(17) I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HE RETURNED FROM GRAZ THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 4 OR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5.

2. YOU MIGHT WISH TO TRANSMIT TO WASHINGTON BOTH YOUR QUESTIONS AND MY RESPONSES LISTED ABOVE.

KAISEER
UNQUOTE
SILBERMAN

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NNN

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